

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2001

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OU Gets Help From Istook for National Weather Center

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) joined the University of Oklahoma and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in seeking support for a world-class national weather facility on the Norman campus.

Istook, who chairs the Treasury, Postal and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, submitted a letter to fellow Appropriations Chairman Frank Wolf (R-VA) requesting the funds.

“The University of Oklahoma is ideal for this national weather facility which will help save lives, homes, and businesses,” said Istook. **“Top-notch researchers can study severe weather first-hand, so they can develop better forecasting and warning systems to be used across the country.”**

The money will be used for phase II of the National Weather Center. This center will be a world-class research-operations-education environment in the midst of the Great Plains, the nation’s best natural laboratory for weather and climate research. The center provides a modern facility to house the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory and the national Storm Prediction Center, which conduct research and forecasting of the nation’s severe weather. Just as important, the facility will bring together some of the nation’s best climate researchers to turn basic science into practical benefits such as enhanced safety and improved technology.

The \$22 million requested by Istook for the project will be matched by \$23.7 million in state funding.

The text of the letter follows:

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations
H-309 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf:

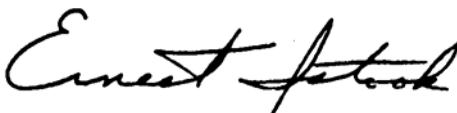
I am writing to request your assistance in securing \$22 million to complete phase II of the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma being developed jointly by NOAA and the University of Oklahoma. This project will also receive a matching grant of \$23.7 million in state funding.

The National Weather Center will be a permanent modern facility to house the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) and the national Storm Prediction Center (SPC) of the National Weather Service. It will be a world-class research-operations-education environment in the midst of the nation’s best natural laboratory for weather and climate research.

Last year, this project received \$3,000,000 in federal funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations, Research and Facilities Construction line, and \$4.3 million in state funding to complete phase I.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



Ernest J. Istook
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

